

WHITEMOOR ACADEMY



www.whitemooracademy.eschools.co.uk/

Friday 8th April 2022

As we reach the end of the spring term, I want to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their enthusiasm and flexible approaches this half term.

The efforts that staff have gone to, to keep our school open whilst still providing quality education has been amazing.

Thank you also to all the parents, carers and to the children for your commitment this term. Despite the challenges, we have enjoyed plenty of celebrations, school trips and fantastic learning across the school which is being nicely topped off with today's Easter celebrations.

I hope that everyone enjoys a wonderful Easter break. We will all be keeping our fingers crossed for some sunny weather.

I look forward to welcoming the children back for the summer term on the 25th April.

Mrs G Hooper
Head of School

This week in class

Class 1	This week in Class 1 we have enjoyed all things Easter! We have tasted hot cross buns and learnt about why we eat them at Easter time. We have enjoyed making chocolate nests and Easter cards. The Easter Egg hunt of Friday was a big hit and the Reception children have enjoyed writing an Easter story. We are looking forward to all of the exciting adventures for the last term of school!
Class 2	Class 2 have had a great last week of the Spring term. They have worked hard on their reading comprehension skills (with lots of children being added to Accelerated Reader - well done!) and have demonstrated excellent understanding in our end-of-term maths challenges. We enjoyed writing our own Beatrix Potter style story about a very naughty hedgehog and played target games to finish our unit on throwing in PE. We finished the term with an exciting Easter trail around our amazing school grounds, following a map and solving the mystery word using nine rhyming clues. The Class 2 team wish you all a very Happy Easter, and an enjoyable, restful break.
Class 3	Class 3 have become journalists this week. They have been asking open-ended questions to friends and family of our upside-down character, who has mysteriously disappeared. In science, they have been learning about the water cycle and in maths they have been dividing by 100 and adding and subtracting fractions. In P.E. we finished off the term with a mini football tournament. In computing, the children have been learning how to present information using Google Slides.
Class 4	Well done to Class 4 for a good week. Year 5 have spent time learning about area and perimeter in maths, while the Year 6's looked at ratio and angles. In English, the children have learnt about poetic techniques and had a go at writing their own spring themed poems. We would like to say a special well done to the Year 6 children who have worked hard on their SATs prep this week and a thank you to the parents who attended our parent information session. We wish you all a happy Easter and look forward to seeing you in the summer term.

Important Upcoming Dates

- ◆ 08.04.22: Whole School Easter Egg Hunt
- ◆ 11.04.22 to 22.04.22: Easter Holidays
- ◆ 25.04.22: Return to School/Nursery
- ◆ 02.05.22: May Bank Holiday
- ◆ 30.05.22: May Bank Holiday
- ◆ 31.05.22 to 03.06.22: Half Term Week
- ◆ 06.06.22 to 07.06.22: School/Nursery Closed (Queen's Jubilee)
- ◆ 27.06.22 to 08.07.22: Class 4 Swimming for 2weeks
- ◆ 11.07.22 Year 5 Transition Day at Brannel
- ◆ 18.07.22 Year 6 Transition Day at Brannel

New TAs

We are pleased to inform you that we have recruited three new TAs who will be joining our fantastic team after the Easter break. Please keep an eye out for more details after the holidays.



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for achieving headteacher award this week for Behaviour:



Class 1: George

Class 2: Phoebe

Class 3: Max

Class 4: Riley

Summer Fair :

Any parents who are interested in supporting us with planning the summer fair, please come into school on Thursday 28th April at 9am. We plan on setting up a committee to organise the fair. We look forward to seeing you there.

Online safety

Over the last two weeks we have had reports about children using the app Omegle outside of school. This app randomly assigns users to each other to chat and video call. The security on the app is questionable and it doesn't appear to be well monitored. We are aware of children receiving explicit messages through this app which is a cause for concern. Please see below for more information on Omegle. The parents of the children involved have been spoken to but we do urge you to check your child's phone in case there is anyone we may have missed.

[What is Omegle? What parents need to know | Internet Matters](#)

Easter Egg hunt

This afternoon, children from across the school took part in our Easter egg hunt. All the children were very excited to get an Easter egg!



Changes to drop off and collecting from school...

You will remember that on last week's newsletter, we explained that there would be a change to the drop off arrangements for Class 3 and 4 children after Easter and we will now be asking that all children enter the premises via the front gate and the main entrance to the school.

In the newsletter, we also stated that there would not be any change to the end of the school day arrangements. This being said, as the KS1 children (and siblings) currently finish at 3pm, they are missing out on an extra hour and 15 minutes of education a week. This has also proven to be disruptive in our KS2 classrooms as some of the children leave at 3pm and others stay on for the extra 15 minutes.

You may be aware that the government have just published a new policy paper which states that all schools should be open for a total of 32.5 hours per week. This, together with the issues I have already raised above, has led to us making the decision to move back to our original (pre-covid) finish time of 3.15pm for all children after the Easter break.

We will be asking parents/carers to collect their children from their class doors at the end of the school day as of the 25th April. If you have more than one child in the school, we will ensure that the older of the children exits through their youngest sibling's classroom to prevent any issues with collection.

We please ask that all parents and carers be considerate when parking and we encourage children to walk/cycle to school where possible. We know that the carpark is an issue at the end of the school day which is why we decided to continue with the staggered finish times until now even though it caused disruption in class. We now believe that the additional time in school for education outweighs the parking issue and can only apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause to parents.

Even with this change to the end of the day, we will still be required to add an additional 5 minutes to the school day to meet the new government expectation. We will send out more information about this in due course.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs G Hooper

Head of School